

The Holy Spirit
First Baptist Church Dandridge
Winter 2026

Session Two: The Work of the Holy Spirit

The **weekly notes** can be found at: www.fbcdandridge.org/wednesday-bible-study

"The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church." – Wayne Grudem

1. The Holy Spirit Gives and Sustains Life

- a. **He Gives Life:** When it comes to biological life, the Holy Spirit is the One who gives life and sustains life in all creatures.
 - Genesis 1:2 – *"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."*
 - Psalm 104:30 – *"When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground."* (cf. Gen. 1:2)
 - Job 34:14-15 – *"If he should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust."*

- b. **He Gives New Life:** In the realm of salvation, the Holy Spirit gives and sustains spiritual life for the regenerate.
 - Matthew 3:11 – *"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*
 - John 3:6-7 – *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" (cf. John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6)*
 - Titus 3:5 – *"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."*
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 – *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."*
 - Romans 8:11 – *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."*

2. The Holy Spirit Empowers People to Serve

a. Old Testament

- **Judges:** Judges 13:24-25 – *“And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him.”* (cf. Gideon, Othniel, Jephthah, etc.).
- **Kings:** 1 Samuel 16:13 – *“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.”* (Saul, Solomon, etc.).
- **Prophets:** Ezekiel 11:5 – *“And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, “Say, Thus says the LORD:”* (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc.).
- **Leaders:** Deuteronomy 34:9 – *“And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.”*
- **Workers:** Exodus 31:1-5 – *“The LORD said to Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.”*

b. New Testament: The empowering work of the Holy Spirit is seen in the life of Christ, the work of the disciples, and among believers serving in Christian ministry.

- John 1:32 – *“I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”*
- Luke 4:1 – *“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit...”*
- Luke 4:18-19 – *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*
- Acts 1:8 – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- Acts 4:8 – *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”*
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 – *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

3. The Holy Spirit Purifies

- a. **Spiritual Growth:** When a person is made new in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit they experience “positional sanctification,” meaning their position or status with God is changed. They are no longer alienated from God, guilty of sin, and headed for judgment. Rather, they are at peace with God, forgiven, and headed for eternal life. However, while the Holy Spirit regenerates and cleanses believers, he continues to grow believers toward spiritual maturity and holiness, which is known as “progressive sanctification.”
- Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
 - Romans 8:13 – “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”
- b. **Quote:** “Spiritual practices...may provide better tests for evaluating a church’s health than the acreage of the church’s parking lot.”

4. The Holy Spirit Reveals

- a. **Revelation to Prophets and Apostles:** The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible word of God. Such divine authority is possible because the human authors were inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit to record the revealed thoughts of God.
- 1 Peter 1:10-12 – “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”
 - 2 Peter 1:21 – “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
 - John 16:13 – “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”
- b. **He Teaches and Illuminates:** The Holy Spirit teaches certain truths to God’s people and illuminates the heart so they can understand and apply his word.
- Luke 12:12 – “And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 – “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”
 - Psalm 119:18 – “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”
- c. **Guides and Directs God’s People:** Scripture gives many examples of the Holy Spirit guiding and directing God’s people toward his will. This was not only true for characters in the Old and New Testaments, but also true for believers today. However, Scripture is our ultimate authority.
- Isaiah 30:1 – “Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin.”
 - Acts 13:2 – “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
 - Romans 8:14 – “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”